

Application No.: 09/954,953
Amendment and Response dated November 12, 2003
Reply to Office Action of September 15, 2003
Docket No.: 1188-37 RCE (LD0226)
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Remarks

Introduction

The claims have been amended. Claims 1-14 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 15-17 are currently pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter. The Examiner has indicated that the composition of independent claim 15, and the claims that depend therefrom are free of the prior art.

Section 103 Rejections

Claims 1-14 have been rejected as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,908,835 to Bissery. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is obviated by the cancellation of claims 1-14. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are appropriate and respectfully requested. Applicants submit the present claims are patentably distinct over the art and allowable in form. Early allowance is therefore solicited.

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The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney should there be any questions regarding this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Christina L. Warrick", is written over a horizontal line.

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